

## **DRAFT**

### **TUCSON AMA SAFE-YIELD TASK FORCE ISSUE OUTLINE 4/19/00**

#### **ISSUE: REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS**

Land use planning and water policy are not well integrated in the Tucson AMA. Inadequate coordination of water resource management, land use planning and economic development activities has resulted in difficulties in developing regional distribution and storage facilities for CAP and effluent and lost opportunities to conserve water. These are impediments to reaching safe-yield and other water management goals.

#### **BACKGROUND**

A major factor in the ability to reach safe-yield is inter-jurisdictional cooperation, particularly related to long-term infrastructure development, use of renewable supplies and consistent local water policies within the AMA. The Tucson AMA has access to enough renewable supplies to be at safe-yield today if problems associated with CAP use, effluent and recharge had not arisen. Local water-related decisions have often been made on the basis of rhetoric rather than informed knowledge. The community needs to be better educated about groundwater and renewable supply issues. Even in the context of a major focus on water issues, the public lacks access to credible and reliable information, and is not aware of the consequences of delaying utilization of renewable supplies.

There is currently inadequate commitment to regional problem-solving, although recent developments in the resolution of effluent issues are encouraging. Jurisdictions have had difficulty working together to identify and support solutions. Various jurisdictions and water providers have different approaches to water service, conservation-related ordinances, hookup fees, etc. Increased cooperation is necessary to communicate and implement the community's vision about appropriate water uses and needs for the future. In general, these objectives can be accomplished within the Tucson AMA without substantial changes in state legislation.

#### **SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED**

The following ideas have been considered . Additional ideas may be added to this list.

- Encourage economic development entities to assess the impact of potential new employers on water supply activities before targeting a company for the Tucson AMA.
- Create a joint committee of water providers and land use jurisdictions to work on a set of consistent conservation oriented ordinances and water-related land use policies that would be proposed for adoption, possibly including model use standards, conversion to low flow devices or water audits required on sale of buildings, etc.
- Ensure that water related issues are considered in the Sonoran Desert Protection Plan and that the water use implications of solutions related to wildlife habitat, riparian corridors and ranching are fully evaluated.

- Establish a regional water district to address financing, consensus building, conservation, education, water supply and environmental needs across the entire AMA (similar to SCVWD) (this option would require legislation).
- Create a regional forum for regional problem-solving.
- Identify statutory changes needed to provide primacy to local jurisdictions in certain specified areas that are consistent with the AMA's management goals, if the local ordinance is more restrictive than state law.
- Building on existing outreach efforts, coordinate a large-scale long-term community education program.
- Develop a long-term water supply and demand plan for the entire region, based on a shared community vision of the future and cooperative efforts among interested parties.

## **PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Regional coordination should be encouraged.
- A joint committee of water providers and land use jurisdictions should be formed to work on a consistent, comprehensive set of conservation oriented ordinances and water-related land use policies. ADWR should facilitate these efforts. These could include model standards and ordinances, requirements for conversion to low flow devices or water audits required on sale of buildings, limitations on exempt wells in riparian areas, conditions of new service, limitations on turf facilities, etc.
- ADWR should coordinate with the State Department of Commerce and local economic development entities to encourage evaluation of water demand by prospective new employers and encourage new industries to go to locations where renewable supplies are available.
- Building on existing outreach efforts, coordinate a large-scale long-term community education program (as discussed also in the Conservation Issue Paper on Shifting Focus to End Users).

## **OBSERVATIONS**

Currently, jurisdictions and water providers have the ability to resolve many of the water-related problems in the Tucson AMA. However, lack of motivation to overcome obstacles and engage in problem-solving approaches is an ongoing issue.